

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/812,556

Examiner

Mila Airapetian

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Examiner Amendment of 10/12/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13, 16, 18-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/01/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Isaacs on October 12, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Title:

Methods for automatically providing a personalized product.

In the Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An automated method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers, the automated method comprising the steps of:

preparing electronic personalized product producing data on a portable hand-held device based on instructions provided to a customer prior to preparing the electronic personalized product producing data, the electronic personalized product producing data including text data and type of the personalized product, the text data includes data to be recorded on the personalized product;

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sending the personalized product producing data in a first format from the portable hand-held device by wireless communication to a producing facility;

receiving, by wireless communication, the electronic personalized product producing data in the first format and customer identification information;

electronically sequentially storing sets of the personalized product producing data and the customer identification information, each set including a piece of personalized product producing data and a piece of customer identification information;

automatically and electronically analyzing each piece of the personalized product producing data in the first format and converting it to a piece of electronic data in a second format;

receiving the piece of electronic data in the second format and recording the piece of electronic data in the second format on an output medium used to produce a personalized product;

producing the personalized product based on the piece of electronic data in the second format at a location to be specified by the electronic personalized product producing data; and

automatically notifying the customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested, wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced.

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14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers according to claim 13, further comprising the step of delivering the personalized product produced to a location within the limited, defined geographic area or facility designated by each piece of customer identification information.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The automated method according to claim 13, further comprising:

storing the produced personalized product in association with the customer information; and

authenticating each of the customers based on the customer information; and, upon confirmation of authenticity of each of the customers,

providing the stored personalized product associated with the customer information to each of the customers.

19. (Previously Presented) The automated method according to claim 18, wherein at least the producing and the storing are paired in each of a plurality of locations within the limited, defined geographic area or facility, each piece of e-mail received from each of the customers contains information about a personalized product producing device's location, designated by each of the customers, and furthering including:

analyzing the data about the personalized product producing device's location, and

transferring the image data to the personalized product producing device installed in a designated producing location, the personalized product producing device at the designated location producing the requested personalized product, and a storage device installed in the designated personalized product producing device, storing the produced personalized product.

20. (Previously Presented) The automated method according to claim 13, wherein a personalized product producing system is installed in a plurality of locations within the limited, defined geographic area or facility, and a receiver for receiving the wireless communication is installed in each of the plurality of locations and is allowed to receive only wireless communications transmitted from the customers within an area associated with each location of the plurality of locations.

21. (Previously Presented) The automated method according to claim 13, further comprising:

calculating upon receipt of each wireless communication, a number of wireless communications already received and operation conditions of a personalized product producing device, an estimated time of completion of the requested personalized product; and

automatically returning a wireless communication including the estimated time of completion to each of the customers.

22. (Previously Presented) The automated method according to claim 13 further comprising:

receiving the personalized product by the customer at the location where production of the personalized product occurs.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers according to claim 13, wherein the personalized product is one of a stamp, name card, and sticker/label.

24. (Currently Amended) An automated method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers, the automated method comprising the steps of:

preparing electronic personalized product producing data on a portable hand-held device based on instructions provided to a customer, the electronic personalized product producing data including text data and type of the personalized product, the text data includes data to be recorded on the personalized product;

sending the personalized product producing data in a first format from the portable hand-held device by wireless communication to a producing facility;

receiving, by wireless communication, electronic personalized product producing data in the first format and customer identification information;

electronically sequentially storing sets of the electronic personalized product producing data and the customer identification information, each set including a piece of personalized product producing data and a piece of customer identification information;

automatically and electronically analyzing each piece of the personalized product producing data in the first format and converting it to a piece of electronic data in a second format;

receiving the piece of electronic data in the second format and recording the piece of electronic data in the second format on an output medium used to produce a personalized product selected from the group consisting of a stamp, name card, and sticker/label;

producing the personalized product based on the piece of electronic data in the second format at a location specified by the electronic personalized product producing data; and

automatically notifying the customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested, wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers according to claim 13, wherein within the facility, there are a plurality of producing facilities.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers according to claim 25, wherein each of the plurality of producing facilities produces a different personalized product.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers according to claim 24, wherein within the facility, there are a plurality of producing facilities.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers according to claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of producing facilities produces a different personalized product.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 13

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches preparing electronic personalized product producing data on a portable hand-held device based on instructions provided to a customer prior to preparing the electronic personalized product producing data, the electronic personalized product producing data including text data and type of the personalized product, the text data includes data to be recorded on the personalized product.

Regarding claim 24

Claim 24 is parallel in subject matter to the feature noted above with respect to claim 13 and is allowable for reasons similar to those provided for claim 13.

The most remarkable prior art of record is to Cannon et al. (US Patent No. 5,748,484) and Stewart et al. (US Patent No. 6,259,405).

Although Cannon et al. disclosed many features similar to those recited in the above-indicated claims, Cannon still fails to teach the above-noted features in the above-noted claims.

Stewart et al. discloses geographic based communications service wherein the print job is transferred to the selected printing device, and the service provider may determine the "best" printing device according to the geographic information received.

It is clear from the description of Stewart et al. that the prior art does not considered the possibility of preparing electronic personalized product producing data on a portable hand-held device based on instructions provided to a customer prior to preparing the electronic personalized product producing data, the electronic personalized product producing data including text data and type of the personalized product, the text data includes data to be recorded on the personalized product, as recited in the independent claims 13 and 24.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

"Stamp-sized stickers get downright personal" to Beth Teitell discloses creating personalized stamps.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mila Airapetian whose telephone number is (571) 272-3202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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